

CAN YOU THINK WHEN YOU ARE DOWN?

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THE greatest teacher in the world is MISFORTUNE.

It is unpleasant teaching, but necessary. Few men in history, and very few of the successful about you, have gone through life without knowing the feeling of one

or two knockdown blows.

Individuals and nations knew what it is to be down, and wonder whether they can arise.

France was down after Waterloo, because of one defeat, and down again in 1870 because of another defeat.

The lesson that France had in 1870, Germany, Austria and other countries have now in 1920.

Fifty years from now, when the history of this period is written, at a distance sufficient to make judgment accurate, the story will read: "Such and such a nation, knocked down by defeat in war, or by troubles following victory in war, was unable to rise. Thinking, co-ordinating, organizing power were absent.

"Another nation apparently more seriously injured came up and went on. Misfortune's blow in that case was not sufficient to interfere with the power of organizing thought."

Some weeks ago two well-known young prizefighters illustrated well McCay's teaching for to-day. One named Leonard won the fight. The other was beaten. An old follower of boxing and athletics said of the beaten man: "The trouble with him is that he cannot think when he is down."

The man knocked down in the prize ring is not "out"; he has not lost the fight until the referee has slowly counted ten. If he gets up at any time before the last word "ten" is uttered he may still fight on with the chance of winning.

In the fight mentioned the man beaten was knocked down several times. Each time he jumped to his feet immediately; the referee counted beyond two or three. He tried to start over again too soon, only to meet another knockdown blow, that at last finished him.

The wise old "sporting man" moralizing after the fight said: "If that boy could THINK when he is down, he could win plenty of fights. He should have lain perfectly quiet while the referee counted nine. He should have gone over in his mind the mistakes he had made, planning just what he would do when he got up at the count of ten. Meanwhile he would be giving his heart a chance to rest and his head a chance to clear up. Instead of that, knocked down twice in succession, he jumped up immediately to be knocked down and out and permanently the third time."

Mr. McCay sent with this powerful cartoon the following memorandum:

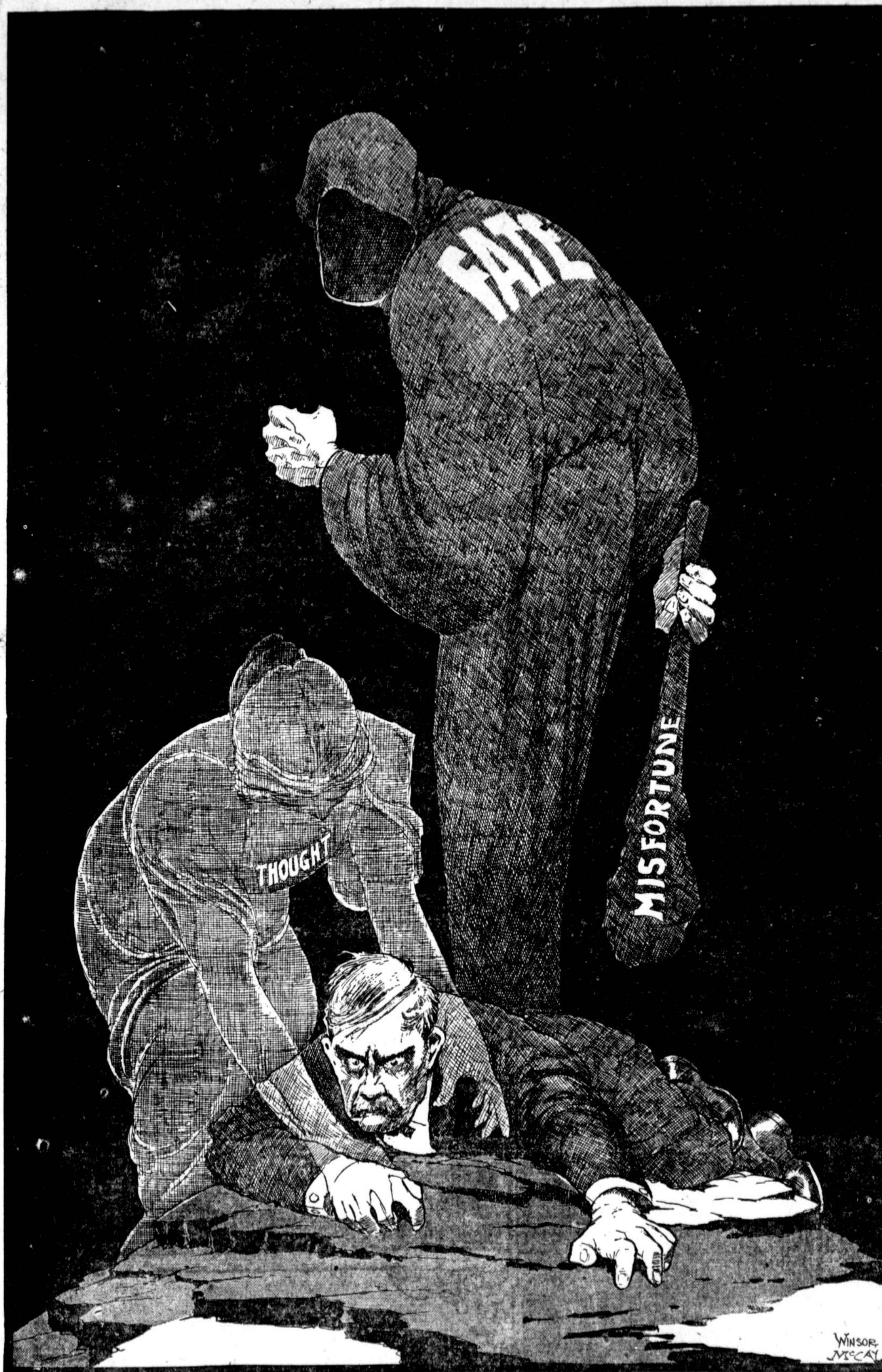
"Not once, but a hundred times in reading the lives of very successful men I have reached the point where the man whom I was studying had about made up his mind that life wasn't worth while, and had about decided to end it. This applies to men of different types, from Napoleon, who struggled along as a simple lieutenant in the army year after year, and almost gave up in despair, to the highly strung artistic temperament, that is apt to see calamity in every direction.

"Every day we read about the suicides that appear as casual news of the day. It would be a good thing to impress on young people the fact that there should be written upon the tombstone of each suicide: 'He Lies Here Because He Could Not Think WHEN HE WAS DOWN!'

"Life is interesting, and especially interesting in misfortune, for those who look at it in the right way.

"Nobody would play golf if the links were smooth ice, spreading hundreds of miles in all directions. There would be no excitement in driving a ball over such a surface. It is the traps, the bunkers, the disappointments and failures that make it interesting. So it is with the life that we lead.

"If everything were smooth; if there were no troubles, no difficulties, no cliffs to be



Here is Mr. McCay's idea of a problem that confronts every human being at least once in his life.

Misfortune may deprive you of money, health, even of the respect of others, and still you may survive.

But if Misfortune knocks you down, and knocks the power to think out of you at the same time, then good-bye

to recovery.

If you can THINK when you are down, you will get up and go on again," says Mr. McCay.

"Think about it before you are down; prepare for misfortune that comes to all soon or late. Then you will be ready."

climbed, no mental or moral problems to be solved, life really would be dull and not worth while. Men go fishing and enjoy it because it is hard to catch fish. A man will travel thousands of miles to shoot a moose, because the moose is hard to shoot.

"Nobody would enjoy getting his fish in the market, or shooting a cow out in the fields, even if the cow weighed more than the moose.

"Wise Providence wants to keep us here working, and so makes it interesting by giving us difficulties and troubles, and we ought to understand that.

"We ought to understand also that while misfortune's blows are the education of strong men, they are the end and destruction of weak men.

"We ought to study and plan to avoid trouble in our prosperous days, remembering that trouble, like rain, is apt to come at any time. And we ought to constantly bear in mind the fact that the ONE great thing when trouble comes and we are down is to retain presence of mind and THINK, keeping away from panic."

So much for the philosophical musing that Mr. McCay sends with this picture.

An old saying is: "Let no man call himself happy until his last day." There is no such thing as permanent safety from trouble, but each of us, within himself, has the power to conquer misfortune, and short of death or insanity, to rise after the heaviest blow.

Mr. McCay has well shown in this picture the power of THOUGHT coming to the rescue of the man who is down.

When things go wrong, question yourself, and above all do not be too quick in deciding that the blame is with others.

A child, and a man with the mind of a child, will always look for some one that can be held responsible for misfortune.

The grown man with ability to think blames first HIMSELF, not the world.

The wise man who receives misfortune's blow asks himself: "What did I do to bring this upon me? What was MY mistake; how shall I remedy it and avoid a repetition of this fall when I get on my feet again?"

The cartoon that Mr. McCay offers you this Sunday carries an excellent lesson. Millions need it now; those upon whom misfortune rests. Many other millions unfortunately must expect to see the day when they also will need it.

In these days following the war and calamity that ever affected the whole world all conditions are especially uncertain. The prosperous man of to-day might find himself the miserable beggar of to-morrow.

But if he can THINK WHEN HE IS DOWN his turn will come and he will stand up and go on again.

When things go wrong, remember Socrates' view of misfortune. His idea was that if all the people of the world were allowed to lay down their misfortunes, the things of which they complained, in a great heap, with authority to select somebody else's trouble, the majority, after looking over the pile, would be content to take up their own misfortune once more and go away with it.

The story has often been elaborated; you read how the lame came to the pile and left their crutches, the poor left their poverty, the sick left their diseases; each took up the trouble of some other and went away with it.

Soon the man that had been lame returned and said: "Give me my crutches back"; the poor man wanted back his poverty in place of the other misfortune that he had selected, and so it went.

In misfortune remember that nothing UNUSUAL has happened. Disappointment is the lot of all men sooner or later.

Retain the power to reflect, to blame yourself, to be philosophical instead of panicky; in short, as Mr. McCay puts it, TO THINK WHEN YOU ARE DOWN.